The Aluminum Situation

A Monthly Publication of
The Aluminum Association, Inc., 818 Connecticut Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20006

Economic Affairs Department 202-862-5100

November, 1979

Shipments Up 4.6 Per Cent

Net shipments of aluminum ingot and mill products through September, 1979, at an estimated 11,056 million pounds were 4.6% higher than shipments of 10,569 million pounds for 9 months of 1978.

Domestic shipments totalled 10,342 million pounds through September, 1979, representing an increase of 2.8% over the 10,059 million pounds shipped in the first nine months of 1978.

Exports of 714 million pounds so far this year were up 40.1% vs. 510 million pounds for nine months of 1978.

Thru September 1979

	9 Mos. 1979	9 Mos. 1978	% Change
Mill Products	8,956	8,770	+ 2.1
Ingot	2,100	1,799	+16.7
Total	11,056	10,569	+ 4.6
Less Exports	−714	−510	+40.1
Domestic Total	10,342	10,059	+ 2.8

Millions of Pounds

Source: Latest month estimated by the Aluminum Association. Previous data—Bureau of the Census.

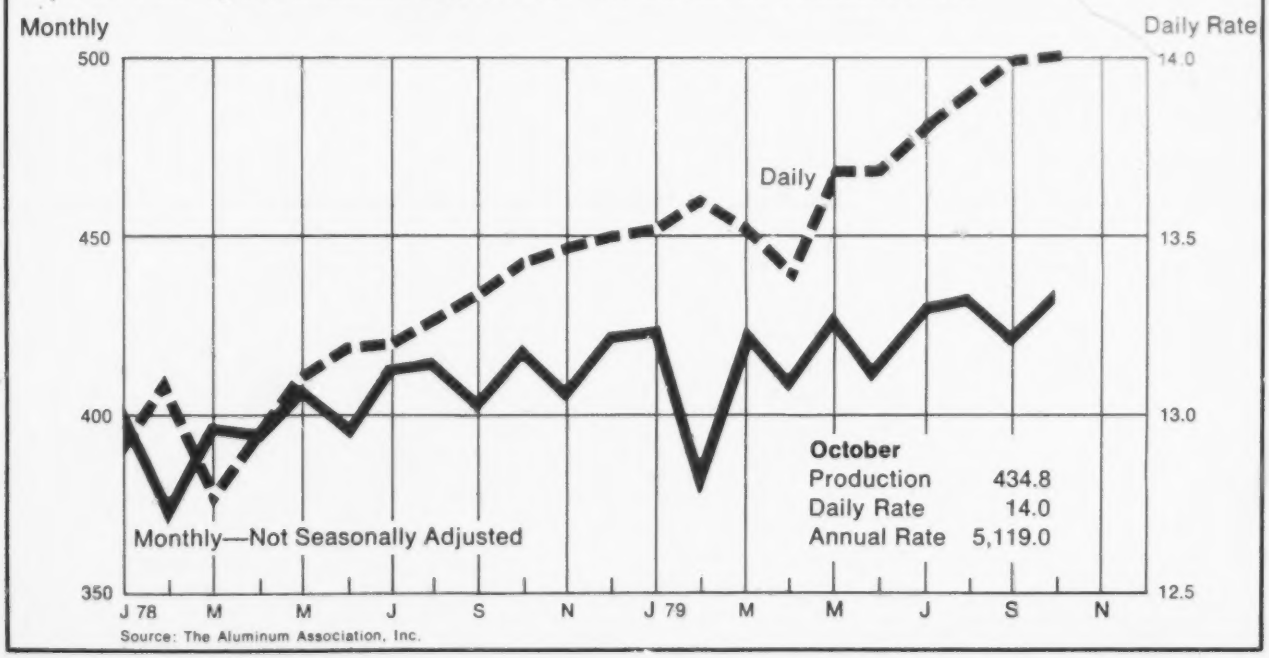
Primary Production Rate Up 4.6 Per Cent

U.S. primary aluminum production averaged 14,025 short tons daily during October, 1979, compared with an average 13,404 tons a day in October, 1978.

The annual rate of production in October, 1979 was 5,119,031 tons, compared to 4,892,330 tons in October, 1978. The September production rate was 5,100,845 tons.

Actual production in October, 1979 was 434,767 tons. This compared with 415,513 tons in October, 1978 and 419,248 tons in September, 1979.

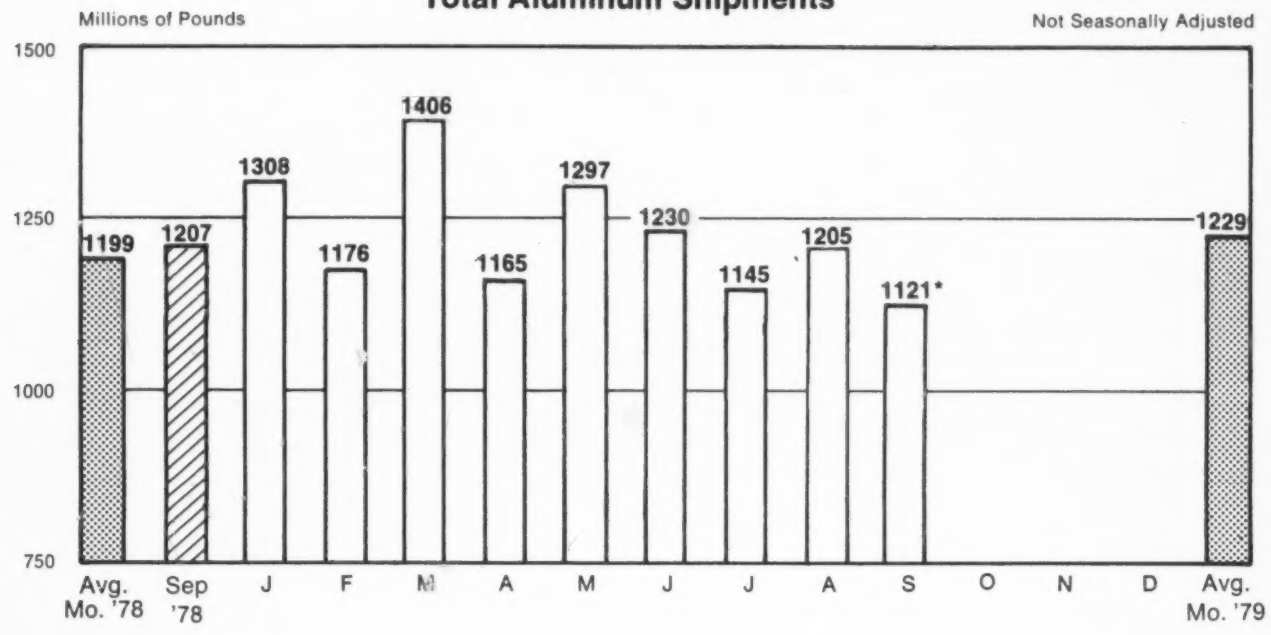
U.S. Primary Aluminum Production—Thousands of Short Tons



Source: The Aluminum Association, Inc.

Aluminum Association total industry estimates are based on information reported by members, which is aggregated by the Association and then expanded to total industry data utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. While the Association believes that its statistical procedures and methods are reliable, it does not warrant the accuracy or completeness of the data. All data contained herein are subject to revision.

Total Aluminum Shipments



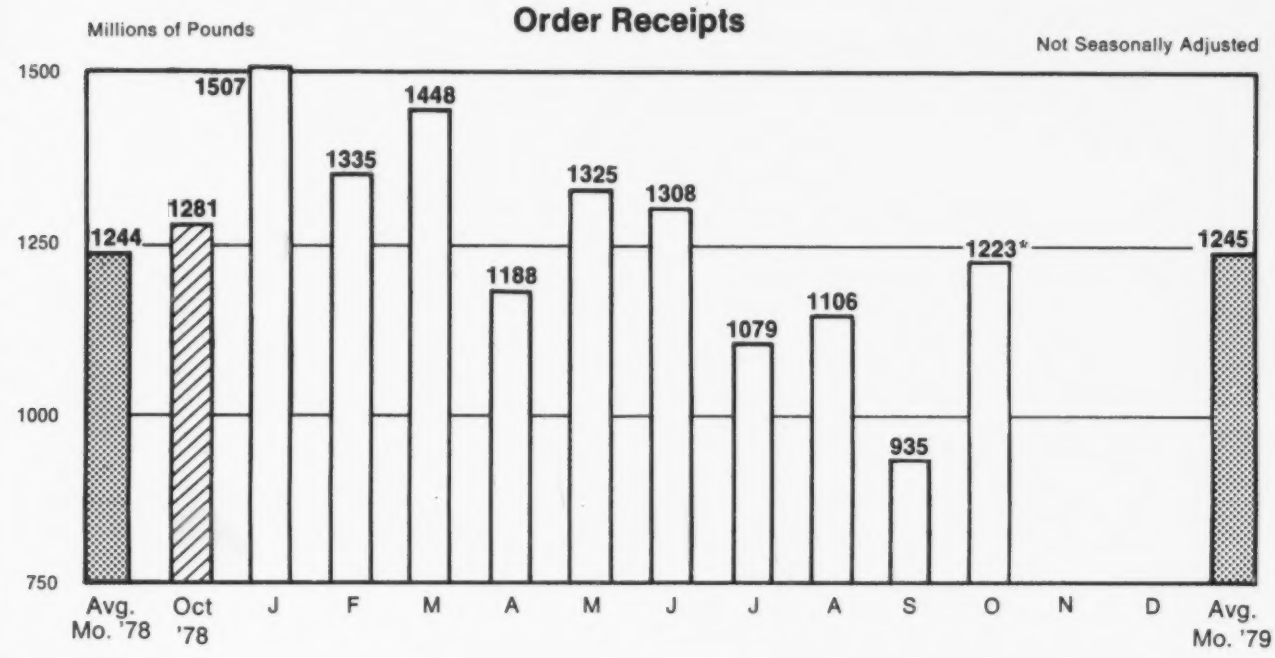
Net Shipments
(Millions of Pounds)

	1979		1978	% Change Latest Month
	September*	August	September	1979 v. 1978
Sheet & Plate	493.0	539.7	534.9	− 7.8
Foil	67.0	73.7	68.2	− 1.8
Rod, Bar & Wire	34.0	34.3	28.9	+17.6
Electrical Conductor	70.0	77.3	65.7	+ 6.5
Extruded Products	180.0	198.3	209.0	−13.9
Welded Tube	6.0	6.2	6.1	− 1.6
Powder & Pigments	10.0	9.5	12.0	−16.7
Forgings & Impacts	11.0	11.7	11.4	− 3.5
Net Imports of Mill Products (Total) (a)	18.0	31.9	33.0	−45.5
Total Mill Products	889.0	982.6	969.2	− 8.3
Ingot	232.0(b)	222.6	237.9	− 2.5
TOTAL INDUSTRY SHIPMENTS	1,121.0	1,205.2	1,207.1	− 7.1
Exports	(60.9)	(85.3)	(80.7)	−24.5
TOTAL DOMESTIC SHIPMENTS	1,060.1	1,119.9	1,126.4	− 5.9

* Latest month estimated by the Aluminum Association.
Previous data—Bureau of the Census and Department of Commerce.
(a) Not included in product data above.
(b) Sufficient data not available for reliable estimate. Implicit in this item is a 10 to 25% variation.
r—revised.

September Shipments Down 7.1 Per Cent from Year Ago

Total September net shipments of 1,121 million pounds were down an estimated 7.1% vs. September, 1978. They were also down about 7.0% from August, 1979 shipments of 1,205 million pounds. Domestic shipments were 5.9% below September, 1978, and 5.3% below August, 1979.



Order Receipts

Millions of Pounds

	1979		1978	% Change Latest Month
	October*	September	October	1979 v. 1978
Can Stock	211.9	157.9	184.0	+15.2
Sheet & Plate, Other	289.1	219.1	376.6	−23.2
Foil	74.8	48.2	84.5	−11.5
Rod, Bar & Wire	26.0	26.8	21.8	+19.3
Electrical Conductor	74.3	59.2r	70.4	+ 5.5
Extruded Products	189.6	169.5	233.4	−18.8
Primary Ingot	48.9	49.3r	87.0	−43.8
Other (Including Secondary Ingot)	229.4	161.5	153.0	+49.9
TOTAL DOMESTIC	1,144.0	891.5r	1,210.7	− 5.5
Exports	78.8	43.7	70.3	+12.1
TOTAL ALL PRODUCTS	1,222.8	935.2r	1,281.0	− 4.5

Source: The Association estimates total industry orders, based on weekly reports by members of new orders (less cancellations) received. The Association expands these data to total industry utilizing an expansion ratio that attempts to reflect the relationship of reporters to the total industry. Weekly data are available upon request.

* Latest month.
r-revised.

October Orders Down 4.5% From Year Ago

October order receipts at 1,223 million pounds were down 4.5% from October, 1978 orders of 1,281 million pounds. However, they represented a 30.8% jump over September, 1979.

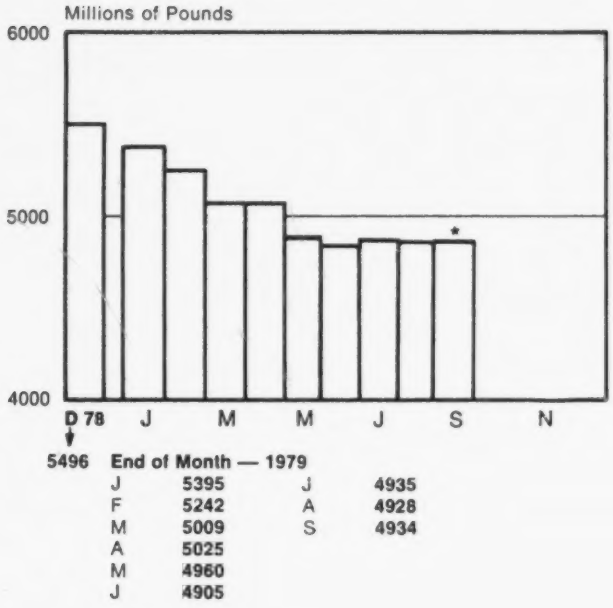
Producer Stocks Up Slightly

Producer inventories increased an estimated 6 million pounds in September, 1979, from 4,928 million pounds in August to an estimated 4,934 million pounds.

Integrated producer stocks increased 11 million pounds; secondary smelters' held steady, and nonintegrateds' stocks dropped 5 million pounds.

Inventories through 9 months of 1979 were down an estimated 562 million pounds from year-end 1978.

Inventories



Producer Inventories
(Millions of Pounds)

Producers	Sep '79*	Aug '79	Sep '79 vs. Year End '78
Integrateds	4,042	4,031	−417
Smelters	255	255	− 6
Nonintegrated	637	642	−139
TOTAL	4,934	4,928	−562

* Latest month estimated by Aluminum Association. Previous data—Bureau of the Census. Inventories include ingot, mill products and scrap.

Imports and Exports
(Millions of Pounds)

		1979		1978	% Change Latest Month 1979 v. 1978
		September	August	September	
Imports	Mill Products	21.6	35.6	36.4	− 40.7
	Ingot	63.7	62.3	102.5	− 37.9
	TOTAL	85.3	97.9	138.9	− 38.6
	Scrap (+ dross)	8.6	11.0	9.9	− 13.1
Exports	Mill Products	44.1	60.9	48.9	− 9.8
	Ingot	16.8	24.4	31.8	− 47.2
	TOTAL	60.9	85.3	80.7	− 24.5
	Scrap	49.3	48.4	37.9	+ 30.1
Net Imports		(16.3)	(24.8)	30.3	−153.8

Source: Department of Commerce, Industry Trade Administration and Bureau of the Census. Exports exclude backed foil.